

COMMENDING AND THANKING THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR THEIR SERVICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Virginia National Guard—especially those from Virginia's Seventh Congressional District. Members of the Virginia National Guard serve their country and their communities on a daily basis. Over the past months, the Virginia National Guard has deployed with little notice and often for longer than originally expected. I want to thank and honor the Virginia National Guard for its expeditious deployment after the violent, deadly attack on the United States Capitol and assault on American democracy on January 6, 2021 and for their service since then to maintain security. Members of the Virginia National Guard also played a key role in protecting an essential American tradition—the peaceful transfer of power. I truly appreciate the members of the Virginia National Guard for their service before, during, and after the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th President of the United States and KAMALA D. HARRIS as the 49th Vice President of the United States.

The Virginia National Guard's willingness and readiness to serve is particularly appreciated given the existing, significant strains on the Guard and on all Virginians. In addition to their service in Washington, D.C., I would like to recognize and honor the Virginia National Guard's instrumental role in assisting with the COVID-19 response in the Commonwealth as well as its continuing training and deployment schedules. We must all recognize that the Virginia National Guard has continued to serve the United States overseas, and continued to prepare for forthcoming needs, while also deploying to serve American communities during a global pandemic and serve our nation in the face of threats at home. Additionally, we cannot overlook the commitment and contributions not only of the members of the Guard themselves, but also of their families, employers, and communities who make their service possible.

CONGRATULATING WHBF-TV FOR BEING NAMED 2020 MEDIUM MARKET TV STATION OF THE YEAR BY THE ILLINOIS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WHBF-TV for being named 2020 Medium Market TV Station of the Year by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

The Illinois Broadcasters Association is the leading advocate for the broadcast industry in Illinois and is engaged in shaping public policy to create a positive legislative and regulatory environment for its members. They award TV stations who are the best at what they do, and they have named WHBF-TV the best of the

medium market TV stations in Illinois. As a former journalist, I understand the importance of local media and the prestige carried by this award. I commend WHBF-TV for the work that they do to inform the public and create a positive work environment.

It is because of community leaders such as WHBF-TV that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate WHBF-TV for receiving the 2020 Medium Market TV Station of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MS. BRIANA MCCREARY AS THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Briana McCreary as the Escambia County Teacher of the Year. For eight years, Ms. McCreary has served Montclair Elementary School with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving her students.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. McCreary has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. McCreary attended Florida A&M University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later attended the University of West Florida and earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom through her involvement in outreach programs, such as SheCounts. Ms. McCreary has served as the Director of this afterschool program since August of 2019. The program is for female students in grades three through five and is focused on improving their confidence and skills in mathematics and STEM courses. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Ms. McCreary as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Briana McCreary for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Escambia County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 99TH BIRTHDAY OF ETHEL KLEPIEN CISZEWICZ

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ethel Klepien Ciszewicz on the occasion of her 99th birthday.

Mrs. Ciszewicz was born on January 27, 1922. She was raised in Detroit, Michigan by her mother who worked to provide for Ethel and her three siblings after her father passed away when she was four years old. As a young woman, she loved to dance and would take the streetcar two to three times per week to take part in dances at Detroit's famous dance halls.

During World War II Ethel worked at Woodall Industries as a buckler in the welding process for airplane cowlings. As a Rosie the Riveter, Ethel's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women. Ethel's service to our country did not stop once she left the factory. At the end of the war as soldiers were returning home to their jobs, she joined the US Army Women's Army Corps where she rose to the rank of Sargent.

After the war ended, she married John who served in the Navy and together they had three children. After employment at various factories, the joy she found in cleaning led her to become a housekeeper at the Georgian Inn in Roseville, where she worked for a decade. At the Inn, her outstanding work ethic made her highly requested among guests. A proud Rosie, even now she has remained an active member of our community. Ethel's lifelong commitment to service reminds us all of the impact that the Rosies have had on our state and nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Ethel Klepien Ciszewicz on her 99th birthday. I join with Ethel's family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our nation.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING LARRY SPENCE

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Larry Spence as he retires as sheriff of Willacy County.

Sheriff Spence's interest in law enforcement began at an early age in his hometown of Clinton, Indiana where he was a patrol boy, and culminated in his service to the safety and security of over 20,000 fellow Texans.

In 1966 he joined the Air Force and served on its police force in California, Illinois and South Vietnam, where he helped secure his base during the Tet Offensive. After he returned home in 1968, he took a job as a patrolman in his hometown of Clinton and married Maria Reyes, a Raymondville Texas native with whom he had a son, Gary. After six